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SIR
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From: Jose Ramos-Horta
To: All
Date: 30.8.90

Subject: U.N. Sub-Commission on Racial Discrimination and Minorities

Sending Res. L41 on East Timor. This version has been ammended just before the vote but the substance remains the same.

The vote which took place last night in Geneva was by secret ballot and the result was as follows: 14 yes, 1 abstention, 9 no. Though the ballot was secret, my reading is that the voting was distributed as follows:

Yes: Argentina, Brazil, Algeria, France, Holland, Mexico, Colombia, U.K., Japan, Greece, Romania, Greece, Senegal, Cuba.
No: Jordania, Nigeria, Somalia, Egypt, China, Morocco, Philippines, USA, Ethiopia.
Abs.: India.
Non-participating: USSR, Yugoslavia, the latter being the Chairman.

As you are aware, while I am certain about the yes votes and the nos, it is a bit more difficult to guess who actually abstained and who did not participate in the vote apart from Yugiskavia.

I mentioned the names of the countries and not the experts for easier identification although the experts are there as "independent" and not representing their respective countries.

The U.S. expert, Judge Treat was extremely negative and outright dishonest. He dismissed completely the reports on human rights violations and praised the Indonesians for the incredible improvements. What a jerk! He was under extreme pressure and might even have received some present from the Indonesians. The Somali expert was a poor devil who had told me before that he was not independent. He tried to bloc action on the draft. Joinet was the master of the battle and did a superb job. Surprise was the Algerian expert, Ksentini, who intervened at one point just before the vote to rebut her colleagues from the South. Later, with tears in her yes, she told Marta Maura (Portugal): "it was him who convinced me" pointing to me. Just before the vote, I reminded her that this is a fight not between East and West, North and South, Haves and Have Nots. We are the poor in Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables".
The Indonesians were stunned. Now we have to immediately prepare for the Commission in Feb/Mar 91. Yours, Jose

Jose